

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET
Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Fourth Worcester Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Fourth Worcester Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.6% (721) reside in the Fourth Worcester Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (137) of Fourth Worcester Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.7% of admissions from the Fourth Worcester Representative District were male and 24.3% were female.
- Over 59.8% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 73.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 5.4% were black non-Latino, 17.5% were Latino, 0.1% were Asians, and 3.1% were other racial categories.
- 62.6% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 11.9% were married, and 18.6% reported not to be married now.
- 28.7% of admissions had less than high school education, 48.1% completed high school, and 23.2% had more than high school education.
- 30.7% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 19.1% of those admitted were homeless.
- 16.1% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Fourth Worcester Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1							
Annual Admissions by Substance Used							
FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Fourth Worcester Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	655	555	236	187	167	106	70
FY '96	631	542	223	197	169	126	72
FY '97	606	498	214	201	150	176	102
FY '98	765	642	273	228	179	242	149
FY '99	716	575	246	213	160	253	165
FY '00	781	609	280	244	197	376	282
FY '01	721	505	198	177	156	335	210

- Since FY 1995, residents of Fourth Worcester Representative District reported an increase in heroin use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use more than tripled, while alcohol use decreased by 9%, marijuana by 16%, cocaine by 5%, and crack use by 6%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Fourth Worcester Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	43.1%	41.8%	5.7%	3.5%	3.6%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While cocaine and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, heroin as a primary drug was higher, and, alcohol and marijuana was lower within your District.